



Montana Nurses Association

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RE: HB 634 - Support

Good afternoon chairman and fellow Committee members

Montana Nurses Association (MNA) is the "voice of nurses in Montana" representing Registered Nurses and Advance Practice Register Nurses throughout Montana. We advocate for improved, cost-effective access to healthcare and for safe patient handling and improved health outcomes

Today I come before you in whole-hearted support of HB 634.

Individuals with mental illness are often transported for evaluative purposes under mechanical and/or chemical restraint. This process of transport is inhumane and often injurious to the patient. MNA is driven to see this practice corrected and appreciate the bill sponsor for bringing it forward.

HB 634 creates a state operated transportation service that is funded by county reimbursement for services performed. The expected end result is a budget neutral program that improves patient transport between health care facilities in Montana and corrects the practice of restraint during transport for debilitated patients.

MNA respectfully requests that this committee give a "do pass" on HB 634 insuring that debilitated patients who require transport, are treated in a humane way at all times in the continuity of care.

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